

TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY

News and Views

Vol. XI, Book 9

November, 1963

There's a chill to the wind, finally, that says winter is on its way. It has been so warm up until the last week or so that it seemed that maybe we were going to have a green Thanksgiving, but finally the frosts came and those chill winds speak of things to come. I hope we do have one more spell of comfortable weather so we can finish all those chores that are still undone, especially the final covering of hay and leaves.

But with the coming of the cold comes thoughts of Christmas and of our annual Christmas party — coming this year even before Thanksgiving — it will be held this year on Thursday, November 21, 1963 at the Y.W.C.A., 12th and Nicollet. The time? 8:00 o'clock as usual. But the rest of the meeting will not be "as usual". First you are asked to bring a 50¢ gardening gift for either a man or woman, for the gift exchange and some of your Christmas goodies for the refreshments. Also, if you have new or different Christmas arrangements or decorations these are always interesting to see and to share with others, as well as adding to the spirit and festivity of the occasion.

The program, too, will not be "as usual". Alice Stenoien, program chairman, tells you about it:

For our Christmas meeting (a week before Thanksgiving!) we have a treat in store for our society. The program will be a musical one — headlined by a quartet called "The Four Knights". This quartet is an auxiliary group of the Knights of Columbus Chorus, and have performed many times in the Twin City area, including television appearances. The keynote of the Four Knights is informality and the music they like best to perform is the old nostalgic barber shop variety. They promise to give us some of this variety and, in recognition of the season, to add some Christmas songs.

As a finale — our own member, Mr. Henry Halvorson, will lead the group in the singing of some Christmas carols.

Please, don't stay away, or you will miss one of the program highlights of the year — plus a preview of the Christmas spirit in song, good food and fellowship. See you on the 21st?

Alice Stenoien

The social chairman, Jean Boguta, has special instructions for this meeting:

I wish to extend my thanks to everyone who participated in our annual banquet last month. It was very gratifying to have so many present. I was happy and pleased with the co-operation shown by everyone.

For this meeting we want everyone to bring some of their favorite Christmas treats... cookies, cakes, breads, etc. to share with the other members. Each year we look forward to these "specialties" and how good they all are!!! It would also be very nice if you could bring the recipes for your special treat for those members who would like to have them. Also, if you bring containers that you want returned, please mark both the container & the lid plainly with your name. Coffee will be served, as usual.

This is one of the most enjoyable parts of the Christmas party so we hope everyone will co-operate, and we hope, too, that you will try to get your treats there a little early. Thank you.

THE ALMOST-PAST-PRESIDENT SAYS:

We have come to the end of another gardening year. In our garden all of the annuals have been cut down by frost and most of the perennials and woody plants have lost their foliage and become dormant. The rather pitiful looking residue from a whole season of busy outdoor activity has been cleaned up and consigned to the compost heap. All that remains is to put on the protective hay covering and then relax into a long period of horticultural dormancy and armchair gardening.

This is a time of mixed emotions. There is a sad and lonely look to all that clean bare ground. Every familiar piece of equipment that is cleaned up and stored away for the winter is like an old friend who is going to be ignored for a while. There is a sense of regret that all the beauty of the summer is gone and that nothing can be done to replace it until next spring, when the whole recurrent cycle will begin again. But — always to my surprise — there is also a sense of relief when the last dead plant has been pulled up and the last bale of hay has been spread. I find that most of my eager enthusiasm of last spring has worn off, and before long these pleasant outdoor jobs would stop being fun and become work. I have had a busy year and I'm getting tired. I'm quite ready to sit quietly in front of the fireplace for a while.

For me the end of this year's gardening season also marks the end of another period. For the past two years it has been my great privilege to serve as your president, but at the November meeting I am going to turn this responsibility over to my very capable successor. And like the end of the gardening year, this is also an event which I view with mixed emotions. This has been a richly rewarding experience for me. Certainly no president of any organization ever received better support and cooperation from the membership, and for this I am very grateful. I look back on many experiences that will never be forgotten. And yet I can turn the gavel over to my successor without regrets, being convinced that a turnover in administration is invigorating to any organization, and knowing that our members will give our new president the same gratifying cooperation they gave me. Moreover, our membership includes a distinguished array of past presidents who stepped down from their offices, but who never stopped working for the welfare of the society. I feel proud and honored to join their ranks, and I hope to be able to contribute as much in the future as they have in the past.

Finally, recent issues of the News and Views have included various favorite garden prayers. There seems no better way of concluding my final contribution to this column than by passing along my own favorite. It appeals to me because of the profoundness of its simplicity. Here it is: "Lord, teach me to make a garden so beautiful that even You will come and walk in it."

G. F. Hanson, President

The members of the Twin City Iris Society were saddened this past month by news of the death of one of our long time members, Miss Elizabeth McVoy. She had not been well for some time and passed away October 24. She is survived by her sister, Maude, who is also a T. C. I. S. member, and some neices and nephews. Our deepest sympathy goes to them in their loss.

Did you know that, added to her other accomplishments, Mrs. Bakke is now a full-fledged author? In the last American Iris Society Bulletin is a short article by Mrs. Bakke telling about her experiment with growing iris indoors and getting them to bloom in the middle of the winter. Congratulations, Al! The odd part about it is that before we, in this area, had even received our Bulletins she had received an inquiry from a woman in Kentucky, I believe, in reference to the article. That is the way she first learned it was in print.

One other very important thing to be accomplished the night of the Christmas Party will be the installation of those officers slated to take over their jobs after the first of the year. We wish to urge all of them in particular not to fail to attend this meeting.

Remember — mark your calendar now!!! THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 1963 - 8:00 P.M.

Christmas Party at Y.W.C.A. Bring: Yourself, guests (be sure each is accompanied by a gift for the gift exchange), your gift, a Christmas treat and, most of all, the spirit and desire to have a wonderful evening of good fellowship and Christmas Joy.